



FAITH-BASED COFFEE

Thursday, March 26

Meeting Notes

Announcements

- Eileen Swanson (Memorial Lutheran) – Memorial Lutheran will be partnering with the Red Cross on a Smoke Alarm project in Rose Village Neighborhood. They are looking for volunteers to help canvass the neighborhood to check for working smoke alarms and to install new, free smoke alarms in homes that need them. Register to volunteer: www.redcross.org/cascadeshfpc
- Chelsea Unger (FCRC at Hudson's Bay High School) – will be starting Lunch Bunch – Lunch Mentoring program – she is looking for volunteers to enjoy a one-on-one lunch with a high school student that could use extra support and positive adult interaction – every Wednesday from 10:47-11:17am at HBHS. Please contact Chelsea if you are interested at 313-4559 or chelsea.unger@vansd.org
- Rob Lloyd (Freedom Church) – is part of a Reverend Resource Center and they will be doing free Chaplain Training – please contact Rob if you are interested: RobL@FreedomChurch.com
- Kai Hill (YWCA) – the Sexual Assault Program of YWCA Clark County invites you to an art exhibit and reception, where area youth will creatively share their voice and raise awareness during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Reception: Monday, April 20th from 4:30-7:00pm and Exhibit: April 20th-23rd from 8:30am-5:30pm at the YWCA (3609 Main Street). For more information, contact Kai at 906-9156 or khill@ywcaclarkcounty.org
- Joy Lyons (PREVENT!) – Three things coming up:
 - Prevention is a Party – drug and alcohol free party for all Clark County middle and high school students on Friday, April 17 from 8-11pm at Marshall Community Center
 - Guiding Good Choices – Free five-session program for parents of children in grades 4-8, designed to teach skills to help you teach children how to make healthy choices. Wednesdays, 4/15-5/13 from 6-8pm at Discovery Middle School. Register: 356-8297 or lucyannb@hotmail.com
 - Rx Take Back Event – 4/25 10am-2pm at 4 locations: Clark College Purple Lot #1, Kaiser Cascade Park, Kaiser, Salmon Creek, La Center City Hall
- Major W Harris, Jr. (JJRA Mentoring Program) – Still recruiting volunteers to be mentors for his program which serves youth that are transitioning from the juvenile justice system. For more information, contact Major at 397-4952 or harrimw@dshs.wa.gov

- Alisha Topper (Vancouver Public Schools) – Open forums being held on Affordable Housing on the following dates: Today from 4-6pm at WSUV, 3/31 from 5-7pm at Camas High School, 4/1 from 5-7pm in Skamania at Stevenson High School, and 4/2 from 5-7pm at Clark College.
- Melanie Green (Evergreen Public Schools) – PAL (Police Activity League) Basketball Game will be this Friday at 6pm at Fort Vancouver High School – admittance is FREE but canned food donations for SHARE are encouraged. Come out and support Orchards Elementary cheer squad and a good cause!
- Andrea Pineda (Flash Love) – will be doing an event to support Embrace Washington on 4/25 at the Vancouver Go Cart location. They will also be selling Tamales for \$18/dozen.
- Brian Kilde (Compass Church) – they have a clothing closet to help support children in our community and they work with Embrace Washington to host a Family Night Out for foster parents.
- David Bilby (Go Connect) – This n’ That Thrift Store is working with Neighbor Linkup to help meet those alerts that come in from trusted partners for things like furniture, etc. If you have furniture items to donate, please donate there!

Partnership Story Highlight: “Office Moms” House of Providence & DCFS

Office Moms was started in Vancouver Washington by founding members of Embrace Washington and a key supporter from DSHS. Office Moms is a team of on-call volunteers who come to the DSHS office when children are waiting for placement. The purpose of Office Moms is to provide a grown-up whose only job at that moment is to care for, sit with, and entertain children during this time of high anxiety. Here is the link to their video: <http://www.embracewashington.org/office-moms-video/>

This week 16 kids have been placed in care. We have a shortage of Foster Care parents in Clark County which means that our CPS caseworkers have trouble finding safe places for the kids to stay and some of the kids are having to be placed outside our community.

Embrace Washington

Since Fall 2013, key community leaders from across Washington State have had a growing sense of passion and purpose in serving our state’s Child Welfare system. With the increased sense that we are being called to do something big, coordinated and aligned to serve our most vulnerable children and families, a team of leaders and faith communities began dreaming about the formation of a state-wide collaborative movement.

At Embrace Washington, our desire is for individuals, families, churches and community members to be aware of the tremendous (though often invisible) needs of children in the state’s foster care system. Through this awareness our hope is to raise up caring and committed people to serve and embrace the very children closest to God’s heart – the vulnerable.

Embrace Washington has chosen to focus our efforts on vulnerable children in state foster care because of the crisis shortage of licensed foster homes and the drastic under-funding to provide quality care to children in state custody. Currently there are just over 8,500 children in care in the State of Washington, with approximately 3,700 licensed foster homes.

You can get involved and help by: (learn more: <http://www.embracewashington.org/join-us/faith-community-opportunities/>)

- Becoming a foster parent

- Adopting kids in care
- Becoming an “Office Mom”
- Welcome Boxes
- Apartment Starter Kits
- Friday Night Out

Special Presentation: Free Clinic of SW Washington by Toni Wise and Barbe West

Mission: To provide and facilitate access to free, compassionate, quality health care for children and adults who are otherwise unable to obtain such services.

Services: Urgent medical and dental care and medication assistance, preventative dental services for children, vision, immunizations, health screenings, sports physicals, short-term diabetes care, specialty, oral health , and social services coordination.

Patients: Uninsured, underinsured, low-income individuals.

Staffing: 600+ volunteer professionals and lay persons, 24,533 annual volunteer hours, 11 employees (9.5 FTE)

They will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary. You are invited to the Sam Beall Memorial Breakfast on Thursday, 4/23 from 7-8:30am at Red Cross Building at Vancouver Barracks (605 E Barnes Street). \$25/person or \$250/table of 10. Register at www.freeclinics.org or 360-313-1388

Tabletop Conversation Summaries: How can you help us reach more families with Free Clinic Services and how can the Free Clinic be of better use to you?

- Presentation to DSHS staff
- Presentation to FCRC Staff (both VPS and EPS)
- Presentation at Fort Vancouver Lions Club
- Chaplains could provide support at the Free Clinic – Rob Lloyd
- Create key messages – simple easy resource that partners can share in the community to promote the Free Clinic (postcard)
- Mobile services to serve seniors
- Mobile services to serve schools
- Update Free Clinic information with 211 Information
- Create a “Resource Group” – so that resource coordinators, patient navigators, CHWs, etc. can be up-to-date on resources and network (CHARG sort of fills this role already and the HLC is looking at creating a Regional Network of CHWs)
- Increased visibility and marketing
- Churches can include Free Clinic information on their websites
- Individuals can ask their own providers to volunteer with the Free Clinic
- Not all churches have commitment or interest in physical health – so may need to re-frame the conversation so that they can hear the value in your services – starting with Do you have any health needs among your congregation? Do you have a health ministry?, etc.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 23 from 9-11am at Trinity Lutheran Church (309 W 39th Street)

TOPIC: Special Presentation by Traci Cole with the YWCA “Where We Live”